

PETER DIAMOND'S RETIREMENT

Peter joined the Club in the spring of the Club's 1999/2000 season. At that time, the Club had been in operation for two years, had already been through two coaches, was languishing at the bottom of the fifth division in the BSA comp and scarcely had enough squad members to cover the wages for even a part time level 1 coach.

From the moment of his arrival, Peter's infectious enthusiasm took hold of our community and catapulted us through the sort of monumental growth and development normally reserved for the realms of a Hollywood block buster movie.

In his first year at our Club, Mr D inspired our swimmers to get up and win the fifth division competition. In the following year we were promoted to fourth division and won that. The next year we skipped third division, went to second division and won that, resulting in our promotion finally to first division where we have of course remained ever since.

At management level, Peter's contribution to this Club has been nothing short of legendary. He was the visionary, the brains, the brawn, the diplomat, the commander in chief, sergeant major and foot soldier behind the creation of our fabulous learn to swim and pool heating facilities. In the early days he personally took learn to swim classes for no pay, just to help get our earnings above break even cost. There can be no doubt that our learn to swim and pool heating facilities are second to none in this region and have proved pivotal in the supply of life blood to our Club, both in terms of income and junior swimmers and their families to bring through the ranks.

Beyond his management work, Peter has also dedicated unthinkable hours at the other end of the scale in the maintaining of the pool and the pool's surrounds. When he was merely a parent of a student at Grace College, it was Peter who volunteered a considerable amount of his time to assist the school in the original design and building of the pool. On taking control of the pool it was Peter who discovered and fixed a problem with the pool's pumping system which unbeknown to the school was causing the pool to lose almost a fifth of its volume in water each week. None of this work was actually ever part of Peter's job description.

All told, Peter would easily have given to the Club well over double the time for which he was actually paid. He really has redefined the concept of going above and beyond the call of duty.

As a coach and mentor for our children, it is truly difficult to find the words to express the affection and gratitude we have for you. In a world of very few absolutes, it would be hard to find a human being who so closely encapsulates the characteristics which define all that is good about people. So many of us in this room and beyond are much better people today for having spent time with you.

We of course acknowledge that all of the time, care and attention which has been given to us had to be taken from somewhere. It is fantastic to see your lovely wife, Diane and wonderful children, Troy and Tania here this evening so that we can extend to them our most heartfelt thanks for putting up with us and the demands that we have placed on your husband and father.

As it happens so often in life, the true extent and value of the gift of your time and energy to this Club and this community might only become fully appreciated in the time that follows after you have gone. We could never hope to repay to you the debt of gratitude for your efforts, but we will do our best to pay it forward to the next generation of swimmers and

hopefully in those efforts we will go some way towards filling the immense void your absence will create.

At sometime between 10.30 and 11.30 this evening, this establishment will be closing and asking us to leave the premises. With us, you will be walking out that door but hopefully never out of our lives and certainly never from our hearts. You are an extraordinary human being and we will never forget you.